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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: George T. Hunt

Serial No: 08/618,252

Group Art Unit: 3503

Filed: March 18, 1996

Examiner: Emmanuel Marcelo

For: TRACK SUPPORTED WINCH AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed August 12, 1997, applicant proposes the following amendments and makes the following arguments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) The method of forming a winch adapted to be supported on a track having a longitudinal axis, a base, and a pair of spaced longitudinally extending track hooks depending from the base in a common direction, each track hook having a flange spaced from the base, wherein the winch is slidably mounted on the track hook flanges, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a flat elongated plate blank having a longitudinal axis, first and second spaced lateral sides, end regions and a central region, a pair of spaced notches defined in said blank first lateral side wherein said first lateral side defines a first track hook engaging lip intermediate said notches, an elongated slot defined in said blank central region substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis and spaced between said